



Pronunciation of final “-ed”

Simple Past Tense

The final –ed ending has three different pronunciations: **/t/**, **/d/**, and **/ed/**

Final –**ed** is pronounced **/t/** after all voiceless sounds. Voiceless sounds are made by pushing air through your mouth; no sound comes from your throat.

Examples of voiceless sounds: “K”, “P”, “S”, “Ch”, “Sh”, “F”

- Looku → looked → look**/t/**
- Clapp → clapped → clap**/t/**
- Misss → missed → miss**/t/**
- Watchch → watched → watch**/t/**
- Finishsh → finished → finish**/t/**

Final –**ed** is pronounced **/d/** after voiced sounds. Voiced sounds come from your throat. Touch your neck when you make a voiced sound, you can feel your voice box vibrate.

Examples of voiced sounds: “L”, “V”, “N”, “B” and all vowel sounds.

- Smelll → smelled → smell**/d/**
- Savev → saved → save**/d/**
- Cleann → cleaned → clean**/d/**
- Robb → robbed → rob**/d/**
- Playy → played → play**/d/**

Final –**ed** is pronounced **/ed/** after “T”, and “D” sounds. The sound **/ed/** adds a whole syllable to a word.

Example: Looked → look/t/ = one syllable; Needed → need/ed/ = two syllables

- Decided → decided → decide**/ed/**
- Needd → needed → need**/ed/**
- Wantd → wanted → want**/ed/**
- Invited → invited → invite**/ed/**

Pronunciation of –S, -ES

To make a noun plural, a final –**s** or –**es** is added to the noun, e.g. Friend → Friends

- Noun + **s**: Friends are important
- Noun + **es**: I like my classes

A final **-s** or **-es** is added to a present tense verb when the subject is a singular noun, e.g. my father works at a bank. (My father is a singular noun)

- Verb + **s**: Mary works at the bank
- Verb + **es**: John watches birds

Final **-s** is pronounced **/s/** after voiceless sounds, as in “**T**”, “**P**”, and “**K**”

- Seat → seats → seat**/s/**
- Rope → ropes → rope**/s/**
- Back → backs → back**/s/**

Final **-s** is pronounced **/z/** after voiced sounds, as in “**D**”, “**B**”, “**G**” and “**EE**”

- Seed → seeds → seed**/z/**
- Robe → robes → robe**/z/**
- Bag → bags → bag**/z/**
- See → sees → see**/z/**

Final **-s** and **-es** are pronounced **/ez/** after “**SH**,” “**CH**,” “**S**,” “**Z**,” and “**GE**,” “**DGE**”.
The **/ez/** ending adds a syllable.

- Dish → dishes → dish**/ez/**
- Catch → catches → catch**/ez/**
- Kiss → kisses → kiss**/ez/**
- Mix → mixes → mix**/ez/**
- Prize → prizes → prize**/ez/**
- Edge → edges → edge**/ez/**

Spelling: Final **-s** / **-es**

- Most words (verbs & nouns), add a final **-s**, e.g. sing → sings; song → songs
- Final **-es** is added to words ending with **-SH**, **-CH**, **-S**, **-Z**, and **-X**.
 - wash → washes
 - watch → watches
 - class → classes
 - buzz → buzzes
 - box → boxes

For words ending in **-y**:

- if **-y** is preceded by vowel only **-s** is added,
 - e.g. toy → toys; buy → buys
- If **-y** is preceded by a consonant, the **-y** is changed to **-i** and **-es** is added.
 - e.g. baby → babies; cry → cries